X-MEN

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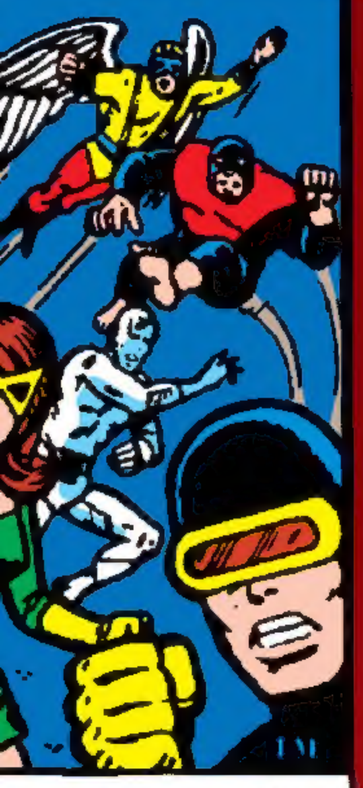

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

X-MEN

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X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!™

"THE RAGE OF BLASTAAR!"

FOR I AM--*BLASTAAR!* KING OF A *LIMITLESS* DOMAIN --EMPEROR OF *ALL* EXISTENCE! BESIDE *MY* POWER, ALL ELSE IS AS *NOTHINGNESS!* YET--COSMIC MONARCH THOUGH I BE--I HAVE BEEN *FELLED* BY THE *FOULEST* OF *FATES!*

WHERE IS THERE ONE WHO WOULD CHALLENGE MY MAJESTY? THEIR LEGIONS ARE *FEW*--THEIR FORTUNES ARE *FEEBLE!*

CONDEMNED I AM-- BY CRUEL CONSPIRATORS WHO FLY THE *VAPID FLAG* OF WHAT THEY WOULD CALL *DECENCY* AND *JUSTICE* --CONDEMNED BY THEM TO ROAM THE ENDLESS WILDERNESS OF *NEGATIVE SPACE!*

AND WHAT *AM* I, CAST THUS UPON THESE *DESERTED* SHORES OF THE COSMOS? *BEREFT* OF PLANETS I MIGHT *PLUNDER*-- *STRIPPED* OF SOLAR SYSTEMS WORTHY OF THE *SCOURGING!* WITHOUT A SINGLE *CHALLENGE*--

--TO CONTEST MY MIGHT, I AM *CHAFF*, I AM *DROSS*--I AM LESS THAN *NOUGHT!*

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I CRAVE THE *LIFEBLOOD* OF COMBAT--AND I MUST SETTLE FOR *SILENCE* AND *SOLITUDE!*

THE *ROAR* OF BATTLE AND *DIN* OF ROUTED ENEMIES WAS *MEAT* AND *DRINK* TO ME--BUT HERE MUST I FEAST UPON *DESOLATION* AND DARK *DESPAIR!*

AND--MOST MISERABLE FATE OF *ALL*--BEFORE ME HANGS THE *GREEN JEWEL* CALLED EARTH, TAUNTING ME LIKE SOME BECKONING *BAUBLE* BEYOND AN *INFANT'S REACH!*

FOR, WERE I TO SET ONE *SINGLE* CELL OF MY *ANTI-MATTER* UPON THAT WORLD--I WOULD BE *EXPLODED* THRU ALL ETERNITY AND SPACE!

YET THERE, ON THAT *JEERING* WORLD, ARE THE VERY BEINGS WHO THRUST THIS *SHAME* UPON ME!

BWAM!

MUST I BE *FOREVER* VICTIM OF THOSE PUNY SOULS WHO FEAR MY GLORIOUS POWER? *PRISONER* OF MEN TOO *COWARDLY* TO RULE OTHERS--AND TOO *MEAN* OF SPIRIT TO ACCEPT ONE *BORN* TO RULE!

SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW, THESE *CHAINS* OF THE PHYSICAL LAWS THAT BIND ME SHALL BE BURST *ASSUNDER!*

SOME *KEY* AS YET UNKNOWN TO ME SHALL *TURN* THE LOCK AND FREE MY SPIRIT--AND MY *RAGE!* THEN SHALL I *FLING* MYSELF FULL UPON MY TORMENTORS--

--AND GRIND THEM AND *ALL* THEY CALL THEIR OWN INTO DRIEST DUST! *VENGEANCE*--MERCILESS AND BEYOND ANY YET CONCEIVED--SHALL BE MINE! *BLASTAAR SHALL BE AVENGED!*

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HERE WE GO, MEN--MY *LATEST* ADVENTURE INTO THE SECRETS OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S *MIND MACHINES!* IN THE DAYS BEFORE HIS DEATH, HE INTRODUCED ME TO THEIR *FANTASTIC* POWERS, AND THIS IS AMONG THE *MIGHTIEST!*

VERILY! A MECHANISM THAT, THRU MENTAL COMMANDS ALONE, CAN *TRANSMUTE* YOUR OWN MATTER INTO RADIO ENERGY! ONCE CONQUERED, THAT DEVICE CAN RADIO YOUR *ESSENCE* INTO DEEPEST *SPACE!*

BUT ANYTHING WITH *THAT* MUCH POWER MUST BE *CAREFULLY* APPROACHED! IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY YOU COULD CONDUCT THE FIRST EXPERIMENTS WITHOUT USING *YOURSELF* AS THE SUBJECT!

THERE *IS* NO WAY-- WE *ALL* KNOW THAT! NO LAB ANIMAL HAS THE DEVELOPED BRAIN FOR IT! IN FACT, ONLY A *MUTANT* WITH EXPANDED CEREBRAL POWERS LIKE MYSELF CAN EVEN *DARE* IT! DON'T WORRY, SCOTT-- I'LL BE *SUPER* CAREFUL!

SO--FAR--SO--GOOD! MILD --TINGLING--SENSATION!

INTERNAL VI--VI--VIBRATIONS --BEGINNING TO B--B-- BUILD!

DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES! YELL THE MOMENT YOU FEEL THE SLIGHTEST DISCOMFORT!

D--D-- DON'T WORRY! THIS ISN'T G--G--GIRL M--M --MARTYR M--MONTH!

G--GRADUAL BUILDING C--CONTINUES! OOOO! W--WHAT WAS THAT? S-- SUDDEN BURST OF ENERGY! IT--IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW! S--SUBSIDING!

UNNHHH! AGAIN! ONE FLASH AFTER ANOTHER! STOP IT!

CAN'T! CIRCUITS OVERLOADED! POWER LINE BLOCKED--HAVE TO GET TO MAIN FUSE! HOLD ON--JEAN!

AAK!

BAWAAA!

THE DEVIL WITH THE MACHINE NOW! GOT TO GET HER TO THE EMERGENCY TREATMENT ROOM!

I CONCUR, DOCTOR! BUT, SHE IS NOT IN EXTREME DANGER!

STAND ASIDE! WHY DID I LET HER TRY THIS CRAZY STUNT?

YOU'RE RIGHT--IT'S JUST A MILD CASE OF SHOCK! SHE'S COMING OUT OF IT ALREADY!

CUT THE MACHINE, HANK! THEN WE CAN GET HER INTO THE EXAMINATION LAB AND RUN SOME TESTS!

WH--WHAT HAPPENED? OHHH! SCOTT--THE MACHINE--IT'S STILL OPERATING! I DON'T KNOW WHAT EFFECT IT CAN HAVE WITHOUT A HUMAN BRAIN DIRECTING IT!

COME ON, HANK --CUT THE MAIN FUSE! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, MAN!

I AM NOT EQUIVOCATING IN THE LEAST, GOOD FRIEND! BUT RIGHT NOW THAT FUSE HOUSING IS HOTTER THAN THE SEVENTH CIRCLE OF DANTE'S INFERNO! THE MACHINE IS LIKE A SPONGE--

--SOAKING UP EVERY LAST DROP OF ENERGY FROM OUR ATOMIC GENERATOR! WHERE IS IT ALL GOING?

AND, IN THE OUTER REGIONS OF THE AWESOME NEGATIVE ZONE, A TERRIFYING COINCIDENCE IS UNDERWAY--A JUNCTURE OF TWO LINES OF EXISTENCE THAT ONLY SOME TWISTED, WRATHFUL FATE WOULD HAVE JOINED!

=AAAAGHH!= WHAT IS THIS BONE-DEEP PAIN THAT SEARS ME LIKE A KNIFE OF FIRE? IT IS THE FINGERS OF SOME INVISIBLE HAND--DRAWING ME AGAINST MY OWN LIMITLESS POWER PULLING ME INTO EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE --WHERE I WILL BE DESTROYED!

HOW IS THIS? I AM WITHIN THE ATMOSPHERIC PERIPHERY NOW--YET MY ANTI-MATTER SUBSTANCE IS NOT EXPLODING! THERE IS BUT ONE ANSWER!

SOMETHING HAS FREED ME! I AM ABLE ONCE MORE TO STALK THAT WORLD WHICH DOOMED ME--AND TO BRING DOWN TOTAL ANNIHILATION UPON MY TORMENTORS! BLASTAAR LIVES AGAIN!

NO *CHOICE* NOW! HAVE TO TEAR THE MAIN POWER LINE APART WITH MY *BARE* HANDS AND--

WAIT! SOMETHING THERE--*WRITHING* IN THE CRACKLING ENERGY THAT POURS FROM THE OVERLOAD MACHINE!

AND--UNLESS I'VE FLIPPED MY *CEREBRUM*--IT'S TAKING ON AN ALMOST *HUMAN* SHAPE!

YOU ARE *NOT* MISTAKEN, MY FEEBLE FRIEND! WHAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU IS THE *ALL-POWERFUL*, UNEQUALLED PRESENCE OF THE NEW MASTER OF EARTH--*BLASTAAR!*

IT IS OBVIOUS--*SICKENINGLY* SO--THAT YOU HAVE AN ALL-POWERFUL *MOUTH*, SIR! BUT THE *REST* OF YOUR BOASTFUL INTRODUCTION REMAINS TO BE TESTED! SHALL WE COMMENCE THE *EXAMINATION?*

YOU ARE ONE WHO MUST LEARN THRU *SORROWFUL* EXPERIENCE, I SEE! THEN LET IT BE *SO!* BLASTAAR SHALL BE YOUR *TEACHER!*

AND LET THE *LESSON* THAT YOU ABSORB HERE SERVE AS A WARNING TO *ALL* EARTHLINGS! I WILL NOT BE *DEFIED!* AND I WILL NOT BE *DENIED!*

LEARN *WELL* THIS TEACHING --IN THE BRIEF AND PAINFUL MOMENT OF EXISTENCE THAT *REMAINS* TO YOU! FOR IT IS A LESSON THAT CAN BE TAUGHT BUT *ONCE!*

ZAM!

AT THAT MOMENT, AS A TELEPATHIC MESSAGE FLASHES TO ANOTHER PART OF THE BUILDING...

BOBBY! WARREN! DANGER HELP US--QUICKLY!

IT'S JEAN! SHE'S IN TROUBLE!

BEING THAT SHE'S THE ONLY ONE OF US WITH TELEPATHIC POWERS-- I'D SAY YOU FIGURED THAT ONE OUT PRETTY GOOD! I THINK YOU'RE ALMOST READY TO HANDLE LONG DIVISION, ICE MAN!

I THINK YOU'RE ALMOST READY FOR A NOSE FULL OF ICE CUBES, BIRD BRAIN!

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M GONNA DELIVER FOLLOWING THIS LITTLE EMERGENCY RUN! MEET ME AFTER THE MAYHEM, SLUGGER!

NOW LET'S GO SEE WHAT'S BOTHERING JEAN! SHE DOESN'T SCREAM OVER ANYTHING SHORT OF WORLD DISASTER!

HOLD ON, GAL! HELP IS ON THE WAY!

I DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT FORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCE FREED ME FROM THE COSMIC DESOLATION TO WHICH I HAD BEEN DOOMED! SOME FANTASTIC CONCENTRATION OF ENERGY, OF COURSE!

CYKE--IT WAS ME! I DID IT--MEDDLING WITH THAT MACHINE OF THE PROFESSOR'S!

SKIP IT FOR NOW, MARVEL GIRL!

PLENTY OF TIME TO FIGURE THIS WHOLE THING OUT-- ONCE WE GET YOU TO SAFETY! HANG ON-- BECAUSE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO--

--BATTER MY WAY PAST THIS BLASTAAR CHARACTER! AND THE WAY HE HANDLED HANK, HE'S NO CREAMPUFF!

YOU MAKE THE GAME MUCH TOO *SIMPLE*, MY FRIEND! BY ATTEMPTING A DIRECT ATTACK ON ME, YOU REDUCE THE WHOLE THING TO A *MERE* MATTER OF BRUTE FORCE! AND THAT CONTEST YOU CAN *NEVER* SURVIVE!

WELL, DON'T LOOK *NOW*, BLASTAAR-- BUT IT'S ABOUT TO GET MIGHTY *COMPLICATED*! LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE--

--WE JUST OPENED A *SECOND FRONT*! NOW YOU'RE UNDER ATTACK FROM *LAND* AND *AIR*!

ANGEL! YOU DO HAVE A *KNACK* FOR *NICK*-OF-TIME RESCUES!

A *FLYING* HUMAN! INDEED I HAVE STUMBLED UPON A *RARE* COLLECTION OF MEN HERE! BUT THIS IS OF LITTLE CONCERN TO ME *ONE* BLAST OF ENERGY WILL BRING DOWN THAT-- *BIRD*!

MISSED ME, LION-HEAD! HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR *OPTOMETRIST* LATELY?

NOT WITH THE *ARCHAIC* MUTATION WHICH GIVES YOU YOUR BIRD POWERS, BUT--

--WITH MY *OWN* NATURAL ABILITY TO PROPEL MYSELF THRU SPACE BY EMITTING *ENERGY* DIRECTLY FROM MY BODY! A *LIVING* ROCKET-- AIMED AT YOUR *VITALS*!

THERE IS A *MUCH* SIMPLER MEANS OF HANDLING YOU! FOR, THOUGH YOU ARE NOT YET *AWARE* OF IT, BLASTAAR *TOO* CAN FLY!

SHOOM!

WHERE YOU FLY LIKE A BIRD--I THUNDER THROUGH SPACE LIKE A *GUIDED MISSILE!* AND ALL THE POWER OF--

--MY ROCKET ENERGY SHALL CONVERGE IN A SINGLE SHATTER-IN *BLOW!* AND THE FEEBLE TARGET--

--SHALL BE *YOU!*

BA

ACK!

FOR THERE IS NO *ESCAPE* FROM MY RAGE--AND NO RECOVERY FROM MY ULTIMATE MIGHT!

BOOM!

FWOU

HERE, ABOVE THE SLEEPING CITY, YOU WILL FIND YOUR FINAL *RESTING PLACE!* AND LET THIS SERVE AS NOTICE TO ALL WHO WOULD RESIST *BLASTAAR!*

ANOTHER SECOND OR TWO AND WARREN HAS *HAD IT!* BUT *HOW* DO WE GET UP THERE IN TIME?

LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT! YOU CHECK OUT HANK! HE TOOK A *HEAP* OF PUNISHMENT!

HE'S *BATTERED*, BUT NOTHING THAT SOME BANDAIDS AND ASPIRIN CAN'T CURE! I'VE SEEN HIM IN *WORSE* SHAPE FROM TOUCH FOOTBALL!

RIGHT! NOW, I PICK UP THE DICE AND SEE HOW THEY ROLL AGAINST *BLASTAAR!* IT'S GOING TO BE A *TRICKY* GAMBLE!

A DELICATE PIECE OF KINETIC CONTROLS IS INVOLVED, AS CYKE USES HIS OWN OPTIC POWER TO RAISE HIS BODY!

THE SLIGHTEST MISCALCULATION COULD SEND ME *SKY HIGH!* AND THE TRIP DOWN WOULD BE SHEER *DISASTER!*

SWOOSH!

CRACK!

CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER! THIS LION-HEAD IS NO *PUSHOVER* LIKE, HE'S DOING ALL THE PUSHING!

--AND *I'M* THE ONE'S GOING OVER! *HEY*--WHAT'S THAT SOUND FROM BELOW?

AS IF IN ANSWER, ONE SINGLE BOLT OF OPTIC ENERGY LAGHES OUT AT THE ANTI-MATTER MAN!

YARGHH!!

BOOM!

KWOOSH!

GIVE ME A HAND, BOBBY! THE *FASTER* HE COMES AROUND, THE *SOONER* WE'LL HAVE REINFORCEMENTS TO FIGHT BLASTAAR!

RIGHT, JEAN! THAT BEAST IS *ONE* HECK OF A *REINFORCE-MENT*, TOO!

I'LL SLIP HIM A WHIFF OF *FROZEN* OXYGEN!

NOT *TOO* MUCH, THOUGH! DON'T WANT TO INJURE THE *LUNG TISSUE*!

ATTAWAY TO GO, *BIG-FOOT*! WE CAN USE YOUR *HEAVY-HANDED* TALENTS RIGHT ABOUT NOW!

THANKS FOR THE *COMPLI-MENT*, FRIGID FRIEND! YOU ALWAYS KNOW--AS THE FRENCH SAY-- THE *MOT JUSTE*!

NOW, AS I RE-CALL, I WAS ENGAGED IN *CACOPHONIC COMBAT* WITH SOME CHAP NAMED BLASTAAR --BEFORE THE ROOF FELL IN ON ME!

RIGHT-- BUT I SEE THAT *BLOW* ON THE HEAD DIDN'T DAMAGE YOUR TALENT FOR *BIG WORDS*!

I WAS KIND OF HOPING IT *HAD*!

BIG WORDS? I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST GLIMMER OF *COMPREHENSION* AS TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT *OBTUSE* REFERENCE!

SKIP IT, WINDY-- I'LL EXPLAIN IT *AFTER* WE BLAST BLASTAAR!

WAIT FOR *ME*, BOBBY! I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT JUST MIGHT BE THE *TICKET* TO SEND BLASTAAR BACK WHERE HE *CAME* FROM!

AND DON'T GIVE ME THAT *NONSENSE* ABOUT HOW YOU WANT ME TO STAY *SAFELY* OUT OF THE WAY!

:*GRRRR!*: SOMETIMES I THINK WE MADE OUR *BIGGEST* GOOF WHEN WE GAVE WOMEN THE *VOTE*!

OKAY, *BRAIN* LADY-- WHAT'S THIS BIG NOTION OF YOURS?

SWIFTLY, MARVEL GIRL OUTLINES HER PLAN...

THAT'S IT, BOBBY! AND WHEN YOU GET DONE FORMING THAT *ICE MANNEQUIN*--I WANT *THREE* MORE!

WITH MY *TELEKINETIC* WAVES PROPELLING THEM THEY'LL MAKE A *DANDY* LITTLE ARMY!

CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER! WHEREVER THIS BLASTAAR DERIVED HIS POWERS FROM, THEY'RE SOMETHING *BEYOND* EARTHLY KNOWLEDGE!

OUT OF THE WAY, CYKE! BEAST AND I BROUGHT A FEW *SURPRISE* GUESTS TO THE *PARTY*!

PRECISELY! BUT BEFORE I INTRODUCE MY *LOW THERMAL* COMPANIONS TO YOU, *MR. B.*, ALLOW ME TO RETURN THE *FAVOR* YOU DID ME SHORT MINUTES AGO!

SO? YOU HAVE *NOT* HAD ENOUGH PUNISHMENT, *BIG HANDS*--EH? THEN LET US HAVE *DONE* WITH YOUR ANNOYING PERSON!

BTAK!

I HAD *SOMETHING* LIKE THAT IN MIND--

--ONLY THIS TIME *I'M* THE DOER--AND *YOU'RE* THE DONE! I THOUGHT I MIGHT FIND THAT *FUN* FOR A CHANGE!

OKAY, I DON'T WANT TO BE A HOG ABOUT IT! GO FINISH HIM OFF COMPANY-F--FOR FRIGIDAIRE!

ARRRRGH! THEY ARE ALL OVER ME--BEATING AT MY FLESH WITH THEIR FROZEN CLAWS! BUT WHAT MOVES THESE THINGS? THEY ARE ONLY FROZEN LIQUID!

SLOWLY, FINGERS OF SUB-ZERO MATTER CLOSE ABOUT BLASTAAR'S THROAT AND HE RETREATS IN PAIN TO AVOID THEM--

--UNTIL...

SKRAK!

...BOTH FIGURES HURTLE THRU THE HOLE THAT WAS BLASTED IN THE CEILING!

HA! INDEED, FORTUNE IS WITH ME ONCE MORE! FOR NOW I MUST FACE ONLY ONE OF THESE ICE CREATURES!

AND THERE IS NO SINGLE BEING--NOT EVEN THESE FANTASTIC THINGS--THAT CAN STAND THE AWESOME MIGHT OF BLASTAAR!

THEN LET THIS BE THE *END* OF THE *FROZEN WARRIOR!* AND LET *ALL* SEE --

ZHAAK!

THAT, AS THIS ENEMY *MELTED* BEFORE ME --

--ALL *EARTH* SHALL TREMBLE--AND ALL THE INHABITED PLANETS OF *EVERY* SOLAR SYSTEM WILL SOON FEEL MY *MIGHT* --AND ACKNOWLEDGE MY *MASTERY!* BLASTAAR IS --*ALL!!*

THEN, IN ONE BLINDING SECOND...

MAN, *LOOK* AT THAT! WOULD YOU JUST LOOK AT OLD LION-HEAD TAKING HIS *LAST BOW!*

WHAT AN *IRONY!* THE THING THAT SET HIM *FREE* IS NOW *DESTROYING HIM!*

HUH?

ARRGHH!

IT WAS THE *WILD* ENERGY FROM PROFESSOR XAVIER'S MACHINE THAT *FREED* HIM AND--

--THE WATER FROM THE MELTED ICE MANNEQUIN FORMED A POWER LINK BETWEEN *BLASTAAR* AND THAT ELECTRICITY!

I CAN'T *STAND* TO WATCH IT! I KNOW HE WAS *EVIL*--BUT HE WAS A LIVING BEING, EVEN SO!

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, JEAN, IT'S ONE LIFE--AND THE LIFE OF A GUY WHO'D HAVE *KILLED US* WITHOUT A HINT OF A SIGH--

--AGAINST THE LIVES AND THE FUTURE OF OUR *WHOLE WORLD*--WHICH AIN'T EXACTLY PERFECT, BUT IT'S ALL *WE'VE GOT!*

BUT *I* STARTED THIS WHOLE THING! I BROUGHT HIM HERE TO EARTH --AND NOW HE'S *DEAD!*

NOT EXACTLY, HONEY! BLASTAAR'S BASIC ENERGY WAS--*EVIL!* PURE UNADULTERATED *HATE!* AND, WHEREVER MEN LIVE WITH *HATE* IN THEIR HEARTS--*BLASTAAR* LIVES THERE, TOO!

LOOK WHO RIDES AGAIN! *CHIEF BIG FOOT,* THE HAPPY, IF HEAVY-HANDED WARRIOR!

TO PARAPHRASE MARK TWAIN, THE REPORTS OF MY DEATH WERE *GROSSLY* AND UNPROPITIOUSLY *EXAGGERATED!*

YOU SEE--HE'S IN A-1 SHAPE! IN FACT, OL' SUPER-MOUTH SOUNDS *BETTER* THAN EVER!

AND HE'D *BETTER* STAY THAT WAY FOR *THE NEXT ISH*--WHEN THE CRY GOES OUT... **CYCLOPS WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE!**

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FROM THE X-MEN FAMILY ALBUM

CONCLUDING THE FIVE-PART BLOCKBUSTER ORIGIN OF HANK McCOY...

WELCOME TO THE CLUB, BEAST!

THE BOY DID HIS JOB *PERFECTLY!* WITH HIS *EXTRA-ORDINARY* POWERS, HE WAS TO STEAL THIS EXPERIMENTAL *SOLAR GENERATOR*--

--RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER THE NOSES OF A *DOZEN* ARMED GUARDS! NOW WE HAVE THE *SINGLE* GREATEST SOURCE OF ENERGY IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM--THE *SUN* ITSELF!

YES, *GREAT ONE!* AND WHEN THE SUN RISES, IN A FEW SHORT MINUTES-- *UNCOUNTABLE* ENERGY WILL POUR THROUGH YOUR GREAT KINETIC TRANSMITTERS! THEN *ALL* THE WORLD WILL *BOW* TO THE MASTERY OF-- *EL CONQUISTADOR!*

AND WHAT ABOUT THE KID WHO LIES ON THE FLOOR-- YOUNG HANK McCOY, WHO WAS *FORCED* TO DO THE CONQUISTADOR'S BIDDING? IS IT *TOO LATE* FOR HIM TO HALT THE HORROR THAT HE HELPED *CREATE?*

THIS WILD AND WOOLY WRAP-UP

PRODUCED BY: *STAN LEE*

WRITTEN BY: *ARNOLD DRAKE*

DESIGNED BY: *WERNER ROTH*

INKED BY *JOHN TARTAGLIONE*

LETTERED BY: *JEAN 'SIMEK' IZZO*

AS THE DAWN DEADLINE TICKS CLOSER, GIANT *POWER TRANSMITTERS* SILENTLY AWAIT THE MOMENT WHEN THEY WILL THREATEN EVERY WORLD CAPITAL WITH *DESTRUCTION!*

THEY'RE SO BUSY *GLOATING* OVER THEIR COMING VICTORY, THAT I MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO *SNEAK* PAST THEM--

--AND *TEAR* THOSE TRANSMITTERS APART WITH MY BIG *BARE HANDS!*

VWOOSH!

MASTER! *LOOK OUT!* THE BOY IS ESCAPING! HE WILL RUIN *EVERYTHING!*

FAR FROM IT, MY LAD! YOU FORGOT ABOUT THE ELEC-ENERGY STORED IN MY *SHIELD*-- WHICH CAN REPEL YOU WITH THE FORCE OF A *TEN-TON TRUCK!*

EEEEEYOWI!!

AND, MORE THAN MERE *DEFENSE*, MY ELECTRONIC GENIUS HAS PRODUCED THIS STRANGE *SABRE-LIKE* WEAPON WHICH, WHEN I UNSHEATH IT--

--AND SPRING ITS THREE *DEADLY* PRONGS INTO POSITION, DELIVERS *5,000 VOLTS* OF PURE ENERGY!

BAWOOSH!

WELL DONE, BOY! BUT HOW LONG CAN EVEN *YOU* OUTRUN THE SPEED OF ELECTRICITY?

CRACKLE!

ZING!
CRACK!
CRACK!
CRRZZZZZ!
A SLIDING DOOR! MY FAVORITE RAT ESCAPING THROUGH IT! IF I CAN GET THERE BEFORE IT CLOSES--!
GOT TO EXIT-- EXPEDITIOUSLY! THE POWER IN THAT WEAPON CAN'T LAST FOREVER, BUT--
WHIRRRR!
WOP!
WWOOSH!
NOW, BOY, YOU HAVE SEEN YOUR FINISH!
WITH THE POWER REMAINING IN MY KINETIC TRIDENT I SHALL--
KWO
OOM!
SANTA MARIA! A BLAST AKIN TO A MINIATURE ATOM BOMB-- BLOWING A HOLE IN A THREE-INCH STEEL DOOR! BUT WHO--?
LOOKS LIKE I OVERESTIMATED THE AMOUNT OF OPTIC ENERGY I'D NEED TO BLOW THAT DOOR OFF ITS HINGES!
SAVE YOUR EYEBALLS, CYKE! WE'RE GONNA NEED THAT PUPIL POWER WHEN WE FACE THIS ELECTRONIC MADMAN!
YOU SAID IT! ANY-BODY WHO CAN BUILD A FORTRESS LIKE THIS AND--
--HEY, ON THE FLOOR THERE! IS THAT THE KID WE'RE AFTER, ANGEL? LOOKS LIKE HE RAN INTO A TWO-FISTED WALL! LET'S GET HIM!
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THERE! YOU SEE--MORE INVADERS THREATENING OUR GREAT-- CONQUISTADOR! SHOOT THEM DOWN!

KHHRRR!

A QUICK ICE WALL IS THE BEST I CAN FASHION FOR US! BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT GONNA HOLD FOR LONG!

NEVER LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH! IT'S KEEPING US ALIVE, NO?

ZING!

BLAM!

VIIIP!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU CHAPS ARE--BUT IT IS PATENTLY CLEAR THAT YOU'VE COME--

--TO EFFECTUATE MY RELEASE! THEREFORE I CAN BUT JOIN YOU IN THIS FRENZIED FRAY!

YOU NEVER USE A SMALL WORD WHEN A BIG ONE WILL DO, EH, KID? THAT'S OKAY-- YOUR FISTS ARE EVEN BIGGER THAN YOUR MOUTH!

AND YOU HAVE OBSERVED NOTHING UNTIL YOU HAVE SEEN MY PEDAL EXTREMITIES AT WORK! YOU MIGHT SAY THEY'RE THE KICKER!

VWOOSH!

BWAP!

SPRACK!

FOR A GRAND FINALE, LADIES AND GENTS, OBSERVE AS I DROP A CURTAIN OF ICE AROUND THIS COLLECTION OF--

--MOBILIZED MISFITS! HOW'S THE MARKET PRICE THESE DAYS FOR FRESH FROZEN FINKS?

NEATLY WRAPPED UP, ICEMAN! I DO BELIEVE THIS IS ONE OF THE FASTEST ASSIGNMENTS WE'VE EVER HANDLED!

YEP! PROBABLY SET A NEW RECORD IN THE PROFESSOR'S CASEBOOK!

AND HANK McCOY HAS NEVER BEEN MORE RIGHT IN HIS YOUNG YEARS! FOR THE SUN IS RISING--BRINGING INCREDIBLE ENERGY WITH IT!

CRRREEEEEEEE

DO NOT COUNT YOUR ROAST PHEASANT UNTIL THEY'RE UNDER GLASS, GENTLEMEN! YOU HEAR THAT WHIRRING SCREECH? THAT IS-- TROUBLE!

IT'S *NERE!* MORE POWER THAN ANY MAN HAS EVER HAD AT HIS VERY *FINGERTIPS!* THOSE FOOLS ARE *TOO* LATE--

CRACKLE!

TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM MY FIRST WARNING *CATACLYSM!*

WH--WH--WHAT'S *THIS?* THE *ELECTRICITY?* IT'S NOT ENTERING MY *TRANSMITTERS!* IT'S POURING INTO--

M--E--E--E!

CRACKLE!

CRACKLE!

THERE HE GOES--ABOUT TO PRESS THE *DOOMSDAY* BUTTON!

NO! DO NOT ATTACK HIM! EVACUATE THAT BUILDING--*AT ONCE!*

KWOOM!

THAT'S *MY* DOING, FRIENDS! I USED MY TELEKINETIC POWER TO ALTER HIS *CIRCUITS!* *WAIT*--WHERE'S THE *BOY?*

HERE HE COMES, PROFESSOR! HE STAYED BEHIND TO FIND HIS *FOLKS*--AND FREE THEM! *SOME SPUNK!*

LATER, AT THE McCOY HOME...

THE PROFESSOR DROPPED A FANTASTIC *RADIO BLANKET* OVER YOUR TOWN THAT ERASED *ANYONE'S* MEMORY OF YOUR AMAZING *POWERS!*

SO *NONE* ARE ANY LONGER *COGNIZANT* OF THE FACT THAT THERE WAS ONCE A BOY CALLED *BEAST!* TOO BAD--I WAS BECOMING *FOND* OF THAT NAME!

THEN WE SHALL *RETAIN* IT! WELCOME TO THE CLUB, *BEAST!*

HOLD IT! THINGS GOT A LITTLE BIT OUT OF ORDER HERE! ANGEL--WHO JOINED THE X-MEN BEFORE BEAST--STILL HASN'T HAD HIS ORIGIN TOLD! BUT WE'LL *WING* IT TO YOU--*NEXT ISH!* *END!*